

## Blakeney Sailing Club newsletter October 2013

**Sailing:** A cold start to the season gave way to a very good summer's sailing with a good turnout for the Blakeney and Morston regattas, The International 14's weekend was well supported, but was blown out on the second day. The NWNSA week resulted in the Blakeney day being their best sailing day. Yet again there was praise for the club's refreshments. The Marsh Marathon was held in some very brisk conditions with a neap tide which made it even more challenging than normal. The winning team deployed a swimmer, a cyclist and a windsurfer. The race week had mixed conditions. Club boats were joined by some of Norfolk Etc.'s more advanced pupils to introduce them to club racing. At the end of the season, although later than usual, in fact so late that we had to rig the boats by early morning moonlight, the final racing in October saw a good 10 boats racing in pleasant conditions with one capsized to provide Geoff the opportunity for a final rescue before retiring as Club Bosun.

**Fun week:** Having braved difficult conditions in the first half of the year the social sailers were able to relax in the much improved summer weather. We had a great day on West Sands, a sail orienteering challenge, other sailing activities, sailing breakfast cooking competition, a great bike ride to Nelson's birthplace, a walk, tennis match, croquet and finally a cricket match against the cocklers, where we were able to recapture the cricket trophy. Although numbers were slightly down on last year the Hog Roast was well attended and very successful with a great talk and stunning pictures by John Myers.

**Rowing:** Hoi Larntan entered the World Championships before the boat was completed but finished 16<sup>th</sup> out of 31 clubs, firmly establishing Blakeney rowers in the international St Ayles Skiff rowing community. During the summer frequent outings have given more people the experience of rowing, and on 7th September a Blakeney crew competed in the Great River Race, a rowing marathon on the Thames, completing the 21mile course from Docklands to Richmond in just under 3 hours.

The next competition will be the Carrow Cup on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December, when crews in traditional boats and fine boats race on the Wensum in Norwich. This year is the Bi-centenary of the event and the start will be at 11.15 at Pull's Ferry, making Riverside a good place to watch.

Rowing will continue during the winter at Barton Broad, where regular outings have been scheduled for competitive and recreational rowers. The boatbuilding team has started on the second St Ayles Skiff for Blakeney and a new club in Wells has also made a start on two more.

Next year they hope to attend rowing matches with the other coastal rowing clubs, which have sprung up on the east coast in the past few years and to host their own event at Blakeney. Rowing will be integrated with the BSC sailing programme and the Morston and Blakeney Regattas.

The club is now firmly established, with a beautiful boat, strong links to Blakeney Sailing Club and the wider coastal rowing community. Anyone wishing to try rowing will be welcome to join one of the regular training sessions. Please contact the secretary, Antonia Hardcastle ([antonia411@btinternet.com](mailto:antonia411@btinternet.com), 01263740523) for more information.

**AGM** After many years service to the club David Woodcock finally retired as President and was replaced by Edward Allen. David has made a major contribution to the club over many years and has guided the club through some difficult times. The club also thanked Roy and Joy Perryman for their many year's input to the club as they were retiring as Vice Presidents.

As our auditor had to retire at short notice the accounts that were presented at the AGM were not audited. However, they have since been reviewed, audited and signed off.

**Sailing programme for 2014:** As usual at this time of year, Sean Moore is busy working up the sailing programme for next year and is facing the perennial challenge of getting a good balance between the need to man the safety and committee boats, and to provide sufficient racing and social sailing for all members. One additional feature this year is that we will try to designate someone responsible for the safety boat on each day.

This, as you might imagine, is not easy but Sean, who is up to his ears in spreadsheets, is keen to get your input and will be looking forward to hearing from volunteers for both the safety boat and race officer duties [sremoore@hotmail.com](mailto:sremoore@hotmail.com)

The Royal Yachting association have designated the 18/19<sup>th</sup> of May 2014 "push the boat out" weekend to encourage more people to take up sailing. We are planning to take advantage of this initiative and if you can lend a boat or are happy to take novices for a trip in your boat please get in touch with [joejcarr@hotmail.com](mailto:joejcarr@hotmail.com)

**Marketing:** The Marketing team have been working hard to improve awareness of the clubs activities. The New website [Blakeney Sailing Club](http://Blakeney Sailing Club) is much improved and provides a wealth of information about the club with lots of interesting photos.

The Club's Facebook page is becoming increasingly popular with over 120 people visiting it each week. If you are already using Facebook then I hope you are enjoying Blakeney Sailing Club posts. If you are not, then in a few short

steps, you can be, too. Your first step, of course, will be creating your profile (this does not have to be very extensive). After that, you can start searching around for your friends and you can also look at the Blakeney Sailing Club Facebook pages, if you make it your “friend” then you should receive the postings automatically. 2014 will be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club’s formation and the marketing group are putting their heads together to come up with some ideas as to how we might celebrate this event. If anyone has any good ideas please get in touch with [billglauert@gmail.com](mailto:billglauert@gmail.com) Or Susie on [susie.emmett@talk21](mailto:susie.emmett@talk21)

### **Items of interest.**

**Safety Boat course.** The committee is keen that the club should tighten up on some of its practices and procedures. As a result of this John Seymour is leading a programme of improving and making more coherent various rules, sailing instructions and guidance notes. As part of this programme the club invited members to take part in a 2 day safety training course run by Norfolk etc. This event which was partly funded by the club enabled all 8 members who expressed an interest in improving their skill to successfully complete an RYA safety boat course.

**Blakeney School:** As in previous years the club sponsored a sailing session for the children of the local school with Norfolk ETC. I have attached their letter of thanks.

**Dredging:** Progress! After many turns and returns the project is at last moving tentatively forward. Consultants have been instructed on the first stages of the planning process and are currently at work on the initial planning stages. The project will be to focus on improving, widening and straightening the channel for about 200m north from the Slipway. Whilst there are many hurdles to jump through in the planning process this scheme is thought, after various preliminary consultations, to have the best chance of success. A major issue has been what to do with the spoil, as it has been made clear that to dump it on any land covered by the SSI designation would be frowned upon. Part of the current study is to see if we could dump it on the dinghy park, so we need to know the likely tonnage of spoil and when spread what the depth would be, at the same time other alternatives are being looked at but the fundamental is the estimated tonnage of spoil. We hope to have the answer to that question by the end of the year. At the same time we expect to have a first estimate of the likely total costs as we will have to start raising funds through grant applications. The Parish Council continue to be very supportive recognising that work is essential if Blakeney is not to become totally cut off from the Harbour, Point and beyond for all but the smallest craft.

### **100 Club:**

The club depends on the income from the 100 club to maintain its financial viability. Are you a member of our 100 club? If so thank you for your support. It has been a major source of funds over the years. If you are not a member of the 100 club and would consider supporting us (£5 per month or £50 per year) please do contact our membership secretary at [anncleall@btinternet.com](mailto:anncleall@btinternet.com)

**Carnser clear up:** Boats, stakes and trailers need to be removed from the Dinghy Park by the end of November unless you notify Tracey Bayfield at the Parish Council. The Carnser clear-up is at 9:30am on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December. So, I look forward to seeing you on the Carnser nice and early, followed by refreshments in the Clubhouse afterwards.

I do hope you have survived the autumn gales and hope you all have an enjoyable Christmas.

Joe Carr – Commodore